

**Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0670_11

Senator Nash asked on 21/10/2010, Hansard page 109.

Question

***SECURING AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICESHIPS THROUGH REGISTERED
TRAINING ORGANISATIONS INITIATIVE***

Senator NASH—With regard to the Securing Australian Apprenticeships Through Registered Training Organisations initiative, how many apprentices were actually assisted through that?

Answer

This initiative was one of two elements of the Securing Australian Apprenticeships initiative, which aimed to support out-of-trade apprentices and trainees to remain connected to the workforce and maintain their investment in training during the global recession and to ensure that Australia's skills base continues to grow in order to have an appropriately skilled workforce as the economy recovers.

The initiative was announced on 19 February 2009 and implemented on 1 July 2009 for a period of two years. Take-up of this initiative has been negligible because jurisdictions responded quickly to economic forecasts in the wake of the Global Recession and implemented a similar initiative through changes to their User Choice funding models.

The COAG decision of 5 February 2009 clearly stated that Commonwealth initiatives were not to be used to displace funding that jurisdictions were already providing. Hence, the Securing Australian Apprentices through RTOs initiative did not need to be accessed once jurisdictions had implemented their own initiatives to support out-of-trade apprentices and trainees.